



U.S. Department of State
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS (INL)

STATE/INL BURMA PROGRAM

Background:

From 1962 to 2011, Burma was ruled by a military-led government that isolated the country from the rest of the world. Burma's economy is extremely under-developed, its civilian institutions are weak, and the criminal justice system is broken. Burma's population has suffered from decades of severe poverty, discrimination, and a lack of access to government services. The country has also been severely threatened by and vulnerable to its growing narcotics problem which has contributed to a rise in criminal activity. Recognizing the need for large-scale reform, the military began seceding power to civilian authorities in 2010 by holding the country's first general election in 20 years. The United States government has recognized Burma's concrete steps towards democracy and is employing an engagement strategy which supports and incentivizes further reform throughout the country. As a component of this engagement, INL is working with U.S. Embassy Rangoon, the U.S. government inter-agency, and the multilateral community to develop and implement counternarcotics and law enforcement programming in Burma.

Program Goals:

- To increase Burmese capacity to address and combat the cultivation, trafficking, and use of drugs throughout the country. To increase the institutional capacity of the police to fight national and transnational security threats, counter violent-extremism, and promote principles of human rights and democracy.
- To increase Burmese capacity to effectively and professionally counter threats to Burmese security and stability in a manner that respects human rights.

Program Components/Accomplishments:

Law Enforcement Skills Development

In 2014 and 2015, INL coordinated two joint study tours for law enforcement in the United States focused on immigration and port control processes; organized a study tour for Burmese law enforcement to the Philippines on trafficking in persons issues; and supported the training of Burmese law enforcement officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok. INL is in the process of developing two in-country training programs for law enforcement on criminal investigations and trafficking in persons issues.

Also Implemented in 2014 and 2015:

1. U.S. Study Tour on Immigration Processes: Burma, Thailand (Texas)
2. U.S. Study Tour on Port Control Processes: Burma, Bangladesh (New Jersey, Washington DC)
3. U.S.-led Study Tour on Trafficking in Persons Issues (Manila, Philippines)
4. Human Trafficking/Child Exploitation Course (ILEA Bangkok)

5. Fraud and Public Corruption Investigation Course (ILEA Bangkok)
6. Law Enforcement Technique to Combat Terrorism Course (ILEA Bangkok)
7. Basic Investigations of Computers and Evidence Protection Course (ILEA Bangkok)
8. Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement Course (ILEA Bangkok)
9. Personnel Facility Security Course (ILEA Bangkok)
10. Border Control Management Course (ILEA Bangkok)
11. Addressing Local Conflict Initiative, Phase 1 for Burmese (Phnom Penh)
12. Addressing Local Conflict Initiative, Phase 2 for Burmese (Rangoon)
13. Addressing Local Conflict Initiative, Phase 3 for Burmese (Rangoon)

Counternarcotics

INL has also supported poppy cultivation and opium yield surveys, a drug user survey, and an assessment of Burmese law enforcement's counternarcotics capacities. INL is also developing and implementing comprehensive drug demand reduction programming throughout Burma. INL continues to support the training of counternarcotics officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok. INL and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration are currently developing an in-country training program for Burma's Drug Enforcement Division.

Implemented in 2013, 2014, and 2015

1. Drug Unit Commanders Course (ILEA Bangkok)
2. Tactical Planning and Safety (ILEA Bangkok)
3. Counternarcotics Instructor Development (ILEA Bangkok)
4. Airport Interdiction for Counternarcotics Police (ILEA Bangkok)
5. 2013 U.S.-Burma Joint Opium Yield Survey (Rangoon)
6. 2013 UNODC Burma Opium Survey (Rangoon)
7. 2014 UNODC Burma Opium Survey (Rangoon)
8. Hired LES for INL program coordination (Rangoon)
9. Hired in-country INL Director (Rangoon)
10. Assessment of Burma's counternarcotics capacities
11. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Drug User Survey (Burma, country-wide)
12. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Treatnet Programme (Rangoon)
13. Colombo Plan's Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals
Training for Drug Treatments Providers (Bangkok & Rangoon)
14. Drug Demand Reduction Stakeholders Conference (Naypitaw)